

engorgement with chaff, fermentable mangolds, frosted turnips, &c. The use of old rams also may cause the slipping of lambs. The fact that your ewes were standing in 20 in. of water for a day and night would certainly be a contributing cause, owing to the chilling effect on the entire system and the struggling of the ewe. If mated, the ewes will breed again the following year.

CAUSTIC SODA FOR ORCHARD PESTS.

A. WILLIAMS, Wairere Falls :—

Could you let me know if you recommend caustic soda as a fungicide for fruit-trees? If so, at what strength is it used?

The Horticulture Division :—

Many years ago, before spraying practice was co-ordinated, caustic soda was used by a good many people to clear the trunks and large branches of fruit-trees from scale insects and moss and lichens. The soda was used with very little dilution and applied with a brush, the operator's hands being protected by leather gloves. Small branches and buds were protected against the scorching effect of the solution by the simple process of leaving them untreated. Later caustic-soda solution was used as a spray at strengths ranging up to 8 lb. to 50 gallons and stronger. This, while excellent for cleaning purposes, was rather severe on the operator as well as the spraying-gear, particularly the valves of the pump. In those early days of fruit-growing very little attention was paid to black-spot and kindred diseases. The fruit was affected or it was not, just as it happened. The great development in fruit-growing rendered control of diseases and insect pests a necessity. This led to the use of more efficient and less crude methods—spraying-oils, lime-sulphur, &c., for insects, and sulphate of copper and lime-sulphur as the chief fungicides. At the present time, though one does occasionally hear of caustic soda being used, such use is not generally recommended.

“ PEAS ” IN COW'S TEATS.

KIRK BROS., Mokauiti, Taumarunui :—

Last May we dried off a three-year-old cow and turned her out for the winter quite sound, but with “ peas ” in all her teats. She has recently calved, and is blind in three quarters, evidently caused by the peas. Can anything be done for her, or to ensure her coming in sound next season?

The Live-stock Division :—

The complaint described by you is one of frequent occurrence, and is caused by inflammation of the teat-ducts, probably of an infectious nature. The obstructions can be removed or broken down, but the operation is not always successful. In spite of the most careful treatment, inflammation, with destruction of the quarter, frequently follows. On this account the operation is not to be recommended. If the obstruction is not interfered with the milk will gradually disappear from the quarter or quarters, and before the next calving-period, in many cases, it will be found that the obstruction in the teats has also disappeared.

COCKSFOOT FOR SEED-PRODUCTION.

“ INTERESTED,” Masterton :—

Last April I put down a paddock in cocksfoot for harvesting. Will you please inform me if it is advisable to harvest it next summer, or keep it fed down with stock until the following harvest season?

The Fields Division :—

It will not be wise to harvest your cocksfoot-paddock this coming season, as the cocksfoot will not be properly established by then. Treat it as a pasture-paddock this summer (but avoiding any heavy stocking), and harvesting operations can then be carried out the following season. Even then the yield will not be great, as it takes a cocksfoot stand some three or four years to come into full bearing.